



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police to Participate in Special Olympics Torch Run**

Howard County Police and several Special Olympics athletes will receive the Special Olympic Torch, known as the "Flame of Hope," Thursday as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The Torch Run is a year-round fund raising effort organized by law enforcement officers around the world.

Each year, law enforcement officers throughout Maryland raise money for Special Olympics by participating in the 600-mile, one-week Torch Run. Last year, more than 2,000 officers across the state, with the help of community partners, raised approximately \$1,100,000. Since its inception in 1986, Torch Run has contributed millions of dollars to Special Olympics athletes in Maryland.

All of the relays will converge at Towson University on Friday, June 17 for the lighting of the cauldron during the 2005 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games Opening Ceremonies.

The Howard County Police Department will receive the Special Olympics Torch on Thursday, June 16 in Laurel at the Marc Train Station on Rt. 1. Police officers will carry the torch with the assistance of several Special Olympics athletes who have been sworn in as "Honorary Police Officers" through Howard County to the Baltimore County Line in ElkrIDGE. The torch will be passed to the Baltimore County Police Department to continue its journey to the opening ceremonies.

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*Editor's Note: Reporters and photographers covering this event should be at the intersection of Route 1 and Main Street at the Marc Train Station in Laurel by 8:45 a.m.*